

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON, EXCEPT SUNDAY, AT THE

NEWS BUILDING,

No. 12 West Washington street.

Entered at the postoffice at Indianapolis, Ind., as second-class matter.

Special want advertisements one cent a word each insertion, nothing less than ten words.

Contributions for which pay is expected should be marked with the price. The news is not under obligation to return rejected manuscripts. Contributors should preserve copies.

The news is served by carriers in Indianapolis and neighboring towns at 10 cents a copy.

Orders for delivery can be sent by post or through telephone No. 161. Where delivery is irregular, please report immediately to the office.

Specimen copies mailed free on application. The postpaid single copy in a wrapper is one cent.

By mail, postage prepaid, the charge is 15 cents weekly or \$2.00 yearly, payable in advance.

The date when the subscription expires is printed on the wrapper of each paper.

Single ads, display and postage orders payable to the order of, and address all communications to,

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS.

Telephone Calls: Editorial rooms, 675; Business office, 151.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1935.

Persons absent from the city during the summer months can have The Indianapolis News sent to them for 10c a week, postpaid, the address being changed as often as desired.

THE CITY'S PROPOSITION.

The conference committee on behalf of the city has prepared a proposition which will be presented to the street car people today, with the statement that if such a proposition shall be submitted by the Citizens' company it will be considered by the members of the committee are very much impressed with the importance of securing cheap fares. And indeed it is hardly possible to overstate the importance of this matter. Still there are many things to be considered. We do not think it is to be sacrificed everything, or many things, in order to secure lower fares. As the News said the other day, there are many people who will not be benefited in any way by cheap fares. They would be benefited by a tax upon the gross receipts of the company. Besides, the city as a whole would be benefited by such a tax. It is not proposed to give it down to 2 percent of the gross receipts, this rate to last during the life of the franchise. In consideration for such reduction and other concessions, notably in the matter of street paving, the company is expected to sell out tickets for 25 cents with the privilege of transferring, and extra tickets for a quarter without such privilege; cash fares to be as at present, 5 cents.

Besides this reduction in the amount of payments into the city treasury, the company is to be relieved of the duty of paying its tracks even in streets yet to be improved. Of course, it is to be relieved from the necessity of doing any track paving. This latter item, on the company's own showing would involve an expenditure of a half million dollars. Here then is a very large concession for the sake of getting cheap fares. We think it is a concession which ought not to be made. We think no proposition that does not include the paving of the tracks by the street car company will be acceptable. The theory of the committee is that a car line on a street does not decrease the value of the property, and that therefore it is not right to expect the car company to pay for paving its tracks, an expense which would otherwise be paid by the property owners, and which is paid by them on streets on which there are no tracks.

This reasoning is hardly sound. The company gets its right-of-way for nothing, and it should be compelled to make it conform to the rest of the street. While its possession is not exclusive, it does constitute a burden upon the street. We venture to say that there are few people who would not rather have the street paved than have the tracks. They may not consider them a nuisance, but they do regard them as an objection, and the company is rarely allowed to lay its tracks upon the best streets. On the whole we do not think it well to make this concession. The estimate of the saving in fares under the proposed arrangement is an impressive one. It is thought that it will amount to more than eight million dollars in thirty years. On the other hand, the payments into the city treasury at the rate originally proposed by the company, would, it is thought, amount to only \$2,500,000 for the same time.

What The News would like to see would be cheap fares—even if not quite so low as those proposed by the city—a substantial increase in the city treasury, graded upward in the later years. They would like a provision requiring the street car company to pave its tracks.

The judgment of the committee, which is unanimous, is entitled to respect. No one questions its sincerity of purpose or its determination to do the best that can be done for the city. But it will, we believe, make a mistake if it sacrifices too much to the cheap fare theory. The people will not be satisfied to continue the present unsatisfactory arrangements as to street paving. The result of such a concession will be that few streets will be paved all the way across. There will be remonstrances against paying the tracks, and the tracks will not be paved.

As to the other point, we think the payment of a substantial per cent. of the gross receipts into the treasury is something which should be insisted upon in the interest of those who will get little or no benefit from cheap fares, and in the interest of the city as a whole. The original proposition advanced by the city is a very fair one. We think that, on the whole, it is to be preferred to the one now under consideration.

CIGARS AND BICYCLES.

It has already been pointed out that the bicycle is bound to exert an influence in social life, and here and there a physician has sounded a note of alarm as to its effect upon man's physical well-being. Now

comes a new cry from a source in which it was not expected. The United States Tobacco Journal, which is devoted to the tobacco industry, declares that the tobacco trade is likely to receive great injury from the general use of the wheel. It says that the decrease in American cigar production since the beginning of the bicycle craze has been several hundred millions a year. The Journal's figures are interesting and suggestive of what might be, but they are not conclusive as to an actual condition. It says that if five hundred thousand men cut down their daily consumption of cigars by two, then the total consumption of cigars a day is reduced a million a day. But if the prevalent use of the bicycle has led to the attention of the male American to such an extent that he pays less attention to smoking, or is obliged to economize in order to own this vehicle, the records of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue ought to indicate the fact. For the fiscal year just ended the returns show that 1,430,440,370 cigars were manufactured in the United States, an increase of 83,522,938 over the year preceding. A still greater increase in the manufacture of smoking tobacco and cigarettes is reported. It may be, however, that the Journal's alarm will be justified in the future. The next year, the craze has been most acute since early spring, and when the next cycling season opens it may be found that the cigar industry is really affected by the general introduction of the wheel. If it be a fact that cycling should reduce smoking, particularly cigarette smoking, it would almost justify riding on the sidewalk.

THE SILVER CONFERENCE.

There seems to be very little danger of mistaking the silver "conference," which assembled in Washington yesterday, for a mass meeting. Nineteen States were represented by seventy-eight delegates, forty-three of the seventy-eight being from Virginia, Illinois and Missouri. This can hardly be called a national gathering. At last accounts twenty-five States were unrepresented, including New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Iowa, and all of the far Western States except North Dakota and Colorado. There is only one delegate from Indiana, Allen W. Clark, president of the State Silver League, and the editor of the Greensburg News. Senator Turpie, who was one of the signers of the call for the meeting, was not present. Possibly he may put in an appearance today.

Nothing was done yesterday except to appoint a committee to prepare a program and resolutions. That committee will report today. The whole purpose of the conference seems to be to organize the silver forces within the Democratic party as to control, if possible, the national convention of next year. It is probable that a committee will be appointed consisting of those who signed the call for the conference, whose duty it shall be to select a provisional national committee, on which each State shall be represented by one member, and that the campaign will be turned over to this body. The platform is as good as determined on. It will be an out and out declaration for free and independent coinage at the 16 to 1 ratio.

But the only question of interest in connection with this matter is as to the supposed influence of the conference and its national committee on the Democratic party. On that point, it seems clear that the movement has come too late. A year ago such an assembly as this would have crowded Washington. Five years ago the free silver cause seemed almost sure to triumph. The men back of it were strong enough to force the passage of the Sherman purchase law, for many of those who favored that law did so because they feared that unless something were done a free coinage law would be passed. Given six months ago the silver outlook was most flattering. But with the beginning of the sound money campaign in the South the aspect of affairs changed rapidly. Secretary Culliver's few speeches helped forward the reaction against silver most powerfully. Then came the fight in Kentucky, in which the silverites were hopelessly beaten. Later, the Iowa Democrats took an anti-silver position. In Indiana the Maximilian meeting of Democratic editors adopted a set of resolutions indicating almost everything except the 16 to 1 dogma. The improvement in business conditions has been a serious obstacle to the progress of the free silver movement. In both parties the drift is in the right direction. It is as strong that it will take a good deal more than yesterday's conference to stop it.

If any man will sit down and figure out the profit and loss in this silver question, from a political point of view, he will be forced to admit that it is extremely improbable that either national convention will go on record as favoring free silver. Such a platform would inevitably defeat the party adopting it. Political ties are not very binding at the present time. Certainly they are not binding enough to hold the business men of the country to a political party which proposes to debase the currency. The question is preeminently a business question, and it will be treated as such by business men. They will be simply impelled for them to countenance the free-silver policy. No matter how loyal they may be to their party, they can not be expected to vote the country into a panic.

So we do not think that either the Democratic or Republican parties will dare to antagonize the business sense of the country. This is especially true in view of the fact that the free-silver theory is losing ground every day. This is admitted by some of the silver men themselves. The returning property has been a severe blow to the calamities. No cheap money scheme can thrive except in seasons of business distress. At such times the people are discontented, and willing to try anything which seems to promise relief. But when things are going well, the people take less interest in all experiments in the way of prosperity-making legislation. This is what has happened. The people are doing very well. Wages are being voluntarily raised all over the country, and are being paid in good money. Long closed factories are reopening operations, and even the usual economic dullness has not checked the returning prosperity.

What the silver men will do is not easy to conjecture. Even the Popular party seems to be getting away from them. It was only the other day that Senator Pepper declared against all metal money

and in favor of a currency based on land values. He proposes to take the stump against free silver. No doubt there are other Populists who sympathize with Mr. Pepper's views. Used from the point of view that the silver men will have to form a party of their own. We would suggest that the conference now in session at Washington provide for this contingency. Unless some such action is taken the silver men may find themselves without any party at all.

AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM.

The negro question, as it is called for convenience, continues to arise periodically in one way or another. There is hardly a month that some phase of the subject is not considered in one of the periodicals. Many wise and sympathetic friends of the negro, and men of ability among themselves, have given careful thought to the subject, but it continues to present unsolved problems, and it is not likely to settle itself.

It is stated in the view of many, was to do so much to solve the problem that grew out of emancipation, has not been a great success. Many negroes have gone to Africa since the war, and within a year a fresh effort was made to revive interest in African colonization. But the tone of even those who are intelligently sympathetic as regards Liberia is apologetic. Dr. E. W. Byrd, who once represented Liberia at the court of St. James, and who is widely known as a scholar and statesman, has been asked to interview the other day at New York city that Africa is not yet ready for the exiled negro. And yet the great needs, he says, of the country are a larger accession of negro immigrants, and, of course, capital.

Reports have just been received of the failure of a colony of negroes in Mexico. Nearly a thousand negroes went from Alabama and Georgia, and were distributed among ten villages on an alluvial plain of about seventy square miles extent. The New York Post has printed some letters from this colony, in which it appears that it is a failure, and that the negroes are, in a large measure, responsible for their own present unfortunate plight. They became dissatisfied and began quarreling among themselves, and now they are abandoning the place.

They were sent there by the United States and Great Britain may slaughter seals any where on the sea three miles from land, there is practically little protection, after all the efforts that have been made to limit and control seal-killing. In a short time sealskins are likely to become scarce, with a corresponding rise in price.

It is to be hoped that Kansas will not find it necessary to use part of her big corn crop for fuel.

Nebraska is raising great crops of corn and wheat and the A. P. A. is raising a great deal of something else.

At a political meeting in Columbia, S. C., the other day a speaker referred to Senator Tillman as the Andrew Jackson who would free the people from the foreign money power, and although Tillman was sitting near by, he did not deny it.

Where is Senator Turpie "at"?

While the yellow fever is killing 100 Spaniards daily, the rebels would do well to adopt dietary tactics.

It is reported that the mayor will issue a proclamation or request suggesting that business men close their stores tomorrow afternoon, so as to give their employees an opportunity to attend the races. It seems to The News that such a proclamation would be proper, and one with which there should be a general compliance. The races on Friday will be well worth seeing, and every one who cares to attend them should be given a chance to do so. There are very many people who will not see them unless there is a general cessation of business to-morrow afternoon. We have none too many holidays in this country. So we hope that the suggestion will meet with a general acceptance.

We remind the Sentinel that our offer to it to use The News's columns to make public any fact or facts it has concerning the corruption it has charged, is still open.

Senator Pepper favors currency based on land values. Why not currency based on hair?

Waller is still in a French prison, and Mr. Davis is still trying to find out the why and wherefore of the situation.

France is acting with oriental deliberation in this matter.

Nebraska is suffering from a greater blight than the drought this year—the A. P. A.

Democratic possibilities are generously insisting on the other man's side of the race, in strong contrast to Republican aspirants, who are going to fight for the honor.

Churches For Sale.

Philadelphia Record.

If any one desires to buy a church he will find some rare bargains these days. As in some commodities, the supply of the land who now receive altitudes in the but just at present, owing to the rapid westward push of business, the number of churches for sale is larger than usual, and the purchaser must be hard indeed to please who can not find one according to his fancy in architecture and size.

There are now on the market in the central portion of the city at least half a dozen churches, from which the congregations have departed or want to depart.

The Epiphany, at Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, found a ready purchaser in John Wansamaker, who will pay down the purchase price of \$25,000. The congregation can find a site on which to build another church. They have now been over a year in an unsuccessful search for a site, owing to the opposition of neighboring Episcopal churches.

The strange use to which churches are sometimes put is exemplified by the old Episcopal church on Filbert street above Seventeenth, which is being sold by the Adams Express Company. A few doors away, at Eighteenth and Filbert, is a church which is being sold by a firm of stonemasons. The church is a fine one, and is being sold for the purpose of building a new church on the same site.

Cuba's trouble may not end with the achievement of independence. There will be spillover to divide.

Women may vote on the adoption of the proposed Utah State constitution. The question of their right to do so has been passed upon by the United States District Court. Judge Smith held that "the qualified voters of the proposed State are those qualified by the constitution when adopted, and hence women are entitled to countenance the free-silver policy. This is a very interesting decision. It determines the right of a constitutional convention to say who shall approve or reject the result of its deliberations. But, as similar doubt might arise in other cases, it would be as well for conventions to state explicitly whether it was the intention for women to vote upon the adoption of the constitution, where they would be entitled to vote for State officers under that constitution.

A Plague of Calveynotes.

The Indiana Baptist.

It was the great showman, P. T. Barnum, we believe, who said that "America is a land of wonders." Certainly the truth may lie in the statement. Certainly there is a sufficient amount of wonder in the strange things that are going on in this country. The strange things that are going on in this country are not new. They have been going on for a long time. The strange things that are going on in this country are not new. They have been going on for a long time.

With all its Peppers, Simpsens and Stewarts the silver cause can not exhibit as many fantasies as the A. P. A.

New York has about made up its mind that it does not like Chicago's drainage canal. One principal objection seems to be that it will increase Chicago's commerce.

Figures gathered by French statisticians indicate an amazing decline in the production of wine in that country. This year, it is said, he om of the worst in the history of French viticulture. The probable production of wine will not be

more than 600,000,000 gallons, against 1,000,000,000 gallons last year. This will be the smallest yield since 1899, and except for that year, the smallest in twenty years.

The ravages of phylloxera, a species of plant lice, have caused this falling off. In 1899 the total area of the French vineyards was 6,918,000 acres, while last year 4,880,000 acres were devoted to this industry. While the acreage of the vineyards decreased but little more than one-fifth in twenty years, the product of wine shrank about one-half in the same time. Efforts have been made to stay the ravages of the phylloxera by restocking the vineyards with American vines, which are considered as not being subject to the attacks of the insect pest. The effect of this decrease in the French wine product has been to increase the demand for American wines.

The Cubans appear to have hold of the other end of the telegraph wires.

Prince Yank Ho Pak, of Korea, will be warmly welcomed in our best circles.

The Maryland Republicans are full of spirit. They are probably making calculations on the opposition to Gorman in the Democratic ranks.

Joe Manley must have taken Tom Reed's bomb in doors to repair the rents.

The Bering sea question seems likely to solve itself independently of legislation or the decisions of courts. It is said that the seal is rapidly disappearing. English and Canadian sealers are killing them for a larger and better market.

English curates are thinking of forming themselves into a professional union, on the basis of a strike.

Microbes killed a Vienna bank clerk lately, who, in counting a pile of bank notes, moistened his fingers with his lips. The bacteria worked their way into his system and he died.

The Mexican owl, when enjoying a siesta, puts itself under the guard of a kind of rat, that gives the alarm on the approach of danger.

Clara—So you are engaged at last? Maude—Why, how did you know I had?

Belgian workers are on strike against each other. One trained rooster in Belgium has crowed 31 times in an hour.

The smoke of London in certain states of the wind is found condensed on the sides of railway chimneys, and is taken away by the water mills.

Ivory paper is a paper which is considered as being of the highest quality. It is particularly adapted for the most delicate kind of pencil drawing.

Willie—At what time did you see Bob Sluggard kicked him? Alice—He simply said: "Gee! men are not sensitive to criticism."—Walked swiftly away.

"Uncle," said Harry, "please buy me a goat." "Harry," said his uncle, "I can't buy you a goat. The more little goat you buy the more money it won't cost."—Crypt.

The swimmers of the Kansas City Argonauts earned their money by jumping into the river at Grant's station and paddling after the boat.

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A Song of Summer.

Out in the open country fields, With the green and yellow merry, The daisies nod and the dandelions shine, And the sunbeams dance right cheerily.

A lasso and liddle come tripping along, Like

